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Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. Adopts Tobacco Free Policy



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Fort Myers, Fla. – Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. is being recognized for being the county's first recreational organization to adopt a tobacco free policy in the Dunbar community of Fort Myers. The Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. adopted a tobacco free policy for staff, members, volunteers, and visitors. The tobacco free policy will prohibit the use of all cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and electronic cigarettes.

Quality Life Center youth participating in Florida's statewide youth advocacy organization, Students Working Against Tobacco, collaborated with the Department of Health in Lee County to develop a policy that would protect the community, particularly youth from the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco and electronic cigarettes. "The Q is proud to provide a clean, safe and healthy environment for youth to enjoy and take advantage of recreational activities in the community," said Katrina Shanks, Teen Program Coordinator. This policy covers all Quality Life Center facilities at any time from "curb to curb," including offices, grounds, adjacent sidewalks, parking lots/ramps, organization owned vehicles and vehicles parked on owned or leased property.

Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida recognizes the hazards caused by tobacco products and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and aims to protect the health of their employees, youth members and all visitors to their facility. They are committed to assisting employees and community members wanting to quit smoking by referring them to Tobacco Free Florida's free *Quit Your Way* cessation resources.

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About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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About Tobacco Free Florida

The Department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program

began in 2007, more than 212,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs.¹ To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla.

¹ Mann, Nathan M, Nonnemaker, James M., Thompson, Jesse. "Smoking-Attributable Health Care Costs in Florida and Potential Health Care Cost Savings Associated with Reductions in Adult Smoking Prevalence." 2016.